

to become impaired in quality, functioning, or condition: DEGENERATE (allowed a tradition of academic excellence to ~) (his health deteriorated) — *de-teri-o-ra-tive* \-rāt-iv\ *adj*  
*de-teri-o-ra-tion* \di-tir-ē-ō-rā-shən\ *n* (ca. 1658): the action or process of deteriorating: the state of having deteriorated  
*syn* DETERIORATION, DEGENERATION, DECADENCE, DECLINE mean the falling from a higher to a lower level in quality, character, or vitality. DETERIORATION implies impairment of vigor, resilience, or usefulness; DEGENERATION stresses physical, intellectual, or esp. moral retrogression; DECADENCE presupposes a reaching and passing the peak of development and implies a turn downward with a consequent loss in vitality or energy; DECLINE differs from DECADENCE in suggesting a more markedly downward direction and greater momentum as well as more obvious evidence of deterioration.  
*de-ter-min-able* \-tərm-(ə)-nə-bəl\ *adj* (15c) 1: capable of being determined, definitely ascertained, or decided upon 2: liable to be terminated: TERMINABLE — *de-ter-min-able-ness* *n* — *de-ter-min-ably* \-blē\ *adv*  
*de-ter-mi-na-cy* \di-tər-mə-nə-sē\ *n*, *pl* -cies (1873) 1: the quality or state of being determinate 2: the state of being definitely and unequivocally characterized: EXACTNESS *b*: the state of being determined or necessitated  
*de-ter-mi-nant* \di-tərm-(ə)-nənt\ *n* (1686) 1: an element that identifies or determines the nature of something or that fixes or conditions an outcome 2: a square array of numbers bordered on either side by a straight line with a value that is the algebraic sum of all the products that can be formed by taking as factors one element in succession from each row and column and giving to each product a positive or negative sign depending upon whether the number of permutations necessary to place the indices representing each factor's position in its row or column in the order of the natural numbers is odd or even 3: GENE: broadly: a comparable subordinate agent (as a plasmagene) 4: one of the chemical groupings that together determine the specific reactivity of an antigen or antibody *syn* see CAUSE — *de-ter-mi-nan-tal* \-tər-mə-nənt-əl\ *adj*  
*de-ter-mi-nate* \di-tərm-(ə)-nət\ *adj* [ME, fr. L *determinatus*, pp. of *determinare*] (14c) 1: having defined limits 2: definitely settled 3: conclusively determined: DEFINITIVE 4: CYMOSE 5: relating to, being or undergoing egg cleavage in which each division irreversibly separates portions of the zygote with specific potencies for further development — *de-ter-mi-nate-ly* *adv* — *de-ter-mi-nate-ness* *n*  
*de-ter-mi-na-tion* \di-tər-mə-nā-shən\ *n* (14c) 1: a judicial decision settling and ending a controversy *b*: the resolving of a question by argument or reasoning 2: *archaic*: TERMINATION 3: the act of deciding definitely and firmly; also: the result of such an act of decision *b*: the power or habit of deciding definitely and firmly 4: a fixing or finding of the position, magnitude, value, or character of something: as *a*: the act, process, or result of an accurate measurement *b*: an identification of the taxonomic position of a plant or animal 5: the definition of a concept in logic by its essential constituents *b*: the addition of a differential to a concept to limit its denotation 6: direction or tendency to a certain end: IMPULSION 7: the fixation of the destiny of undifferentiated embryonic tissue  
*de-ter-mi-na-tive* \-tər-mə-nāt-iv, -tərm-(ə)-nət-iv\ *adj* (1655): having power or tendency to determine: tending to fix, settle, or define something (regard experiments as ~ of the principles from which deductions could be made — S. F. Mason) *syn* see CONCLUSIVE — *determinative* *n*  
*de-ter-mi-na-tor* \di-tər-mə-nāt-ər\ *n* (1556): DETERMINER  
*de-ter-mine* \di-tər-mən\ *vb* *de-ter-mined*; *de-ter-min-ing* \-tərm-(ə)-mīn\ [ME *determinen*, fr. MF *determiner*, fr. L *determinare*, fr. *de-* + *terminare* to limit, fr. *terminus* boundary, limit — more at TERM] *vi* (14c) 1: *a*: to fix conclusively or authoritatively *b*: to decide by judicial sentence *c*: to settle or decide by choice of alternatives or possibilities *d*: RESOLVE 2: *a*: to fix the form, position, or character of beforehand: ORDAIN (two points ~ a straight line) *b*: to bring about as a result: REGULATE (demand ~s the price) 3: *a*: to fix the boundaries of *b*: to limit in extent or scope *c*: to put or set an end to: TERMINATE (~ an estate) 4: *a*: to find out or come to a decision about by investigation, reasoning, or calculation (~ the answer to the problem) (~ a position at sea) *b*: to discover the taxonomic position or the generic and specific names of 5: to bring about the determination of (~ the fate of a cell) ~ *vi* 1: to come to a decision 2: to come to an end or become void *syn* see DECIDE, DISCOVER  
*de-ter-mined* \-tər-mənd\ *adj* (1513) 1: having reached a decision: firmly resolved (~ to be a pilot) 2: showing determination (~ effort) *b*: characterized by determination (will deter all but the most ~ thief — *Security World*) — *de-ter-mined-ly* \-mən-dīē, -mə-nəd-lē\ *adv* — *de-ter-mined-ness* \-mən(d)-nəs\ *n*  
*de-ter-min-er* \-tərm-(ə)-nər\ *n* (ca. 1530): one that determines: as *a*: GENE, DETERMINANT 3: *b*: a word (as *his* in "his new car") belonging to a group of limiting noun modifiers characterized by occurrence before descriptive adjectives modifying the same noun  
*de-ter-min-ism* \di-tər-mə-nīz-əm\ *n* (1846) 1: a theory or doctrine that acts of the will, occurrences in nature, or social or psychological phenomena are causally determined by preceding events or natural laws (explained behavior by the combination of an environmental and a genetic ~) *b*: a belief in predestination 2: the quality or state of being determined — *de-ter-min-ist* \-(ə)-nəst\ *n* or *adj* — *de-ter-min-istic* \-tər-mə-nis-tik\ *adj* — *de-ter-min-ist-ical-ly* \-ti-k(ə)-lē\ *adv*  
*de-ter-rence* \di-tər-ən(t)s, -tər-, -tə-rən(t)s\ *n* (1861) 1: the act or process of deterring (the penalty for the crime of perjury is often no ~ to lying under oath — *New Republic*) 2: the maintaining of vast military power and weaponry in order to discourage war  
*de-ter-rent* \-ənt, -rənt\ *adj* [L *deterrent*, *deterrens*, prp. of *deterere* to deter] (1829) 1: serving to deter 2: relating to deterrence — *deter-rent* *n* — *de-ter-rent-ly* *adv*  
*de-ter-sive* \di-tər-siv, -ziv\ *adj* [MF *detersif*, fr. L *detersus*, pp. of *detergere* to deterge] (1586): DETERGENT — *detersive* *n*  
*de-test* \di-test\ *vi* [MF *detester* or L *detestari*; MF *detester*, fr. L *detestari*, lit., to curse while calling a deity to witness, fr. *de-* + *testari* to call to witness — more at TESTAMENT] (1533) 1: to feel intense and often violent antipathy toward: LOATHE 2: obs: CURSE, DENOUNCE *syn* see HATE — *de-test-er* *n*

*de-test-able* \di-tes-tə-bəl\ *adj* (15c): arousing or meriting intense dislike: ABOMINABLE — *de-test-able-ness* *n* — *de-test-ably* \-blē\ *adv*  
*de-tes-ta-tion* \dē-tes-tā-shən, di-\ *n* (15c) 1: extreme hatred or dislike: ABHORRENCE, LOATHING (had a ~ of hypocrites) 2: an object of hatred or contempt  
*de-throne* \di-θrōn\ *vi* (1609): to remove from a throne or place of power or prominence: DEPOSE — *de-throne-ment* \-mənt\ *n* — *de-thron-er* *n*  
*de-tick* \(')dē-tik\ *vi* (1925): to remove ticks from (dogs should be ~ and sprayed) — *de-tick-er* *n*  
*de-ti-nue* \det-ē-n(y)ü\ *n* [ME *detenue*, fr. MF *detenue* detention, fem. of *detenu*, pp. of *detenir* to detain] (15c) 1: a common-law action for the recovery of a personal chattel wrongfully detained or of value 2: detention of something due: esp: the unlawful detention of a personal chattel from another  
*de-ton-a-ble* \det-ē-nə-bəl, -nə-\ *adj* (1884): capable of being detonated — *de-ton-a-ble-ty* \det-ē-nə-bil-ē-tē, det-ē-nə-\ *n*  
*de-ton-a-tion* \det-ē-nā-ti, 'det-ē-nāt\ *vb* -nat-ed; -nat-ing [L *detonare*, *n* of *detonare* to thunder down, fr. *de-* + *tonare* to thunder — more at THUNDER] *vi* (1729): to explode with sudden violence ~ *vi* 1: to cause to detonate (~ a bomb) — compare DEFLAGRATE 2: to send in a burst of activity: SPARK (programs that detonated controversy) — *de-ton-a-tion-able* \-āt-ə-bəl, -nāt-ə-\ *adj* — *de-ton-a-tive* \det-ē-nā-tiv\ *adj*  
*de-ton-a-tion* \det-ē-nā-shən, det-ē-nā-\ *n* (1686) 1: the action or process of detonating 2: rapid combustion in an internal-combustion engine that results in knocking — *de-ton-a-tion-al* \-shən-əl, -shən-ē-\ *adj*  
*de-ton-a-tor* \det-ē-nāt-ər, -nāt-\ *n* (1822): a device or small quantity of explosive used for detonating a high explosive  
*de-tour* \dē-tū(ə)r also di-\ *n* [F *détour*, fr. OF *destor*, fr. *destorere* to divert, fr. *des-* + *torere* to turn — more at TURN] (1738): a deviation from a direct course or the usual procedure; specif: a roundabout way temporarily replacing part of a route  
*de-tour* *vi* (1836): to proceed by a detour (~ around road construction) ~ *vi* 1: to send by a circuitous route 2: to avoid by going around: BYPASS  
*de-tox-i-cate* \(')dē-tāk-sə-kāt\ *vi* -cat-ed; -cat-ing [de- + L *toxice* poison — more at TOXIC] (1867): DETOXIFY — *de-tox-i-cant* \-sāt-ē-\ *n* — *de-tox-i-ca-tion* \dē-tāk-sə-kā-shən\ *n*  
*de-tox-i-fy* \(')dē-tāk-sə-fī\ *vi* -fied; -fy-ing (ca. 1905) 1: to remove poison or toxin or the effect of such from 2: to free (as a drug user) from an alcoholic) from an intoxicating or an addictive substance in the body or from dependence on or addiction to such a substance — *de-tox-i-fi-ca-tion* \dē-tāk-sə-fī-kā-shən\ *n*  
*de-tract* \di-trakt\ *vb* [ME *detracten*, fr. L *detractus*, pp. of *detrahere* to withdraw, disparage, fr. *de-* + *trahere* to draw — more at DRAW] (15c) 1: *archaic*: to speak ill of 2: *archaic*: to take away 3: detract (~ attention) ~ *vi*: to take away something (an individual's confidence) or ~s from his power to persuade — Carl Tucker — *de-trac-tor* \-trak-tər\ *n*  
*de-trac-tion* \di-trak-shən\ *n* (14c) 1: a lessening of reputation or esteem esp. by envious, malicious, or petty criticism: BELITTLEMENT 2: a taking away (it is no ~ from its dignity or power) — J. F. Golay — *de-trac-tive* \-trak-tiv\ *adj* — *de-trac-tive-ly* *adv*  
*de-train* \(')dē-trān\ *vi* (1881): to get off a railroad train ~ *vi*: to remove from a railroad train — *de-train-ment* \-mənt\ *n*  
*de-trib-a-lize* \(')dē-trī-bə-līz\ *vi* -lized; -lizing (1920): to cause to lose tribal identity: ACCULTURATE — *de-trib-a-l-iza-tion* \dē-trī-bə-lā-zā-shən\ *n*  
*de-tri-ment* \de-trə-mənt\ *n* [ME, fr. MF or L; MF, fr. L *detrimentum*, fr. *deterere* to wear away, impair, fr. *de-* + *terere* to rub — more at THROW] (15c) 1: INJURY, DAMAGE (did hard work without ~ to his health) 2: a cause of injury or damage (the long strike was a ~ to the industry)  
*de-tri-men-tal* \de-trə-mənt-əl\ *adj* (ca. 1656): obviously harmful: DAMAGING (the ~ effects of pollution) *syn* see PERNICIOUS — *de-tri-men-tal-ly* \-lē-\ *adv*  
*de-tri-men-tal* *n* (1831): an undesirable or harmful person or thing  
*de-tri-tion* \di-trish-ən\ *n* (1674): a wearing off or away  
*de-tri-tus* \di-trit-əs\ *n*, *pl* *de-tri-tus* \-trit-əs, -tri-tūs\ [F *détritus*, pp. of *deterere*] (1802) 1: loose material (as rock fragments) or organic particles that result directly from disintegration or product of disintegration, destruction, or wearing away: DEBRIS  
*de-tri-tal* \-trit-əl\ *adj*  
*de-trop* \dē-tro\ *adj* [F] (1752): too much or too many: SUPERFLUOUS (the ridiculously complex plot was *de trop*)  
*de-tu-mes-cence* \de-t(y)ü-mes-əns(t)s\ *n* (1678): subsidence or diminution of swelling or erection — *de-tu-mes-cent* \-nt\ *adj*  
*Deu-ca-lion* \d(y)ü-kāl-yən\ *n* [L, fr. Gk *Deukaliōn*]: a survivor of his wife Pyrrha of a great flood by which Zeus destroys the rest of the human race  
*deuce* \d(y)üs\ *n* [MF *deus* two, fr. L *duos*, acc. masc. of *duo* two] (15c) 1: a (1): the face of a die that bears two pips (2): a playing card bearing an index number two *b*: a throw of dice yielding two points 2: a tie in tennis after each side has won 40 requiring two consecutive points by one side to win 3 [obs. E] ~ is he up to now? *b*: something notable of its kind (a ~ of a man's wit)  
*deuce* *vi* *deuced*; *deuce-ing* (1919): to bring the score of (a tennis game) or set) to deuce  
*deuced* \d(y)ü-səd\ *adj* (1782): DAMNED, CONFOUNDED (in a ~ way)  
*deuced* or *deuced-ly* *adv*  
*deuces wild* *n* (1913): a card game (as poker) in which each dealer represents any card designated by its holder  
*de-us ex ma-chi-na* \dā-ə-sek-smāk-i-nā, -nā; -smāk-ə-nā\ *n* (1697) 1: a god from a machine, trans. of Gk *theos ek mēchanēs*] (1697) 1: a person or thing introduced by means of a crane in ancient Greek and Roman drama to decide the final outcome 2: a person or thing (as in fiction) that appears or is introduced suddenly and unexpectedly and provides a contrived solution to an apparently insoluble difficulty  
*deut-* or *deuto-* *comb form* [ISV, fr. *deuter-*]: second: (deutonymph)

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